How can innovation and entrepreneurship be sparked among Alpine Space SMEs? For the project partners of S3-4AlpClusters, whose field of action is smart specialisation strategies (S3), the answer lies in the interplay between clusters and S3. Indeed if S3s are key drivers to help regions prioritise their efforts to create an innovative economy, the crucial role of clusters as tools for S3 implementation should be acknowledged. To make use of this interplay, though, what is needed is knowledge and alignment between regional strategies for a coordinated approach. StressTest exercises and Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops were conducted to this purpose in the 11 partner regions, delivering valuable results: synergies and complementarities in regional approaches to implementation and innovative transformative activities were identified enabling substantiated discussion and policy improvement. This marked a first significant step towards improving framework conditions for innovation in the Alpine Space.

C-TEMAIp combines the concept of innovation with that of continuity. Indeed one of the biggest challenges for the Alpine Space is maintaining its attractiveness, partly hampered due to ineffective business transfers and the lack of business renewal. Services dedicated to business transfer and renewal are exactly the solution offered by the project. The starting point was that of comparing different regional contexts to develop a common cooperation model among partners. The results were, once again, revealing of similarities but also local differences as for the concept of “business transfer”, the regional sectors interested by business transfer, the incentives supporting it and the obstacles and opportunities it offers.

More efficient services, adjusted to the demographic change taking place in the Alpine Space and the migration situation is the necessity some of the projects of this priority address. PlurAlps for instance aims at developing and promoting innovative services for the integration of mi-
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